(d) if so, to what extent it will be helpful for improving education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Misuse of funds in the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1349. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG in its report on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme stated that many States misused the funds meant for the implementation of this scheme;

(b) if so, whether many States like Gujarat, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar had utilized funds in performing puja, buying air conditioners, mobile phones, utensils etc. rather than spending in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scheme;

(c) if so, whether a report has pointed out that there are still 1.3 crores children out of school at present, and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take against the States which have misused the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) An expenditure of Rs. 4.00 lakhs was spent in Gujarat in performing Bhoomi Pujan of Gujarat Council for Education Research and Training (GCERT) which has since been recouped to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan account by the State Government.

The purchase of utensils for the Mid-day meal programme in schools, out of the school grant funds, was a permissible activity under the SSA, till the Mid-day meal programme provided for the same with effect from July, 2006 in its own programme. Office equipments are admissible under the project management activities of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(c) As per State Government reports, the number of Out of School Children has reduced to 70 lakh, as of March, 2006.

(d) A rigorous financial monitoring system, including quarterly reviews, annual and internal audit systems have been put in place in SSA. In cases of financial impropriety, Government of India directs States to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes.

Allocation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†1350. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 13,750 crores had been allocated for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the year 2006-2007;

(b) if not, the actual amount allocated for the same;

(c) whether this allocated amount has been fully utilized by various State Governments so far;

(d) if so, the details of the amount spent so far, State-wise; and

(e) the contribution of the Centre as. well as the State Governments in the amount spent so far separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMl): (a) to (e) The BE for SSA in the year 2006-07 was Rs. 11000 crore. State-wise Central share released, State shares released and expenditure incurred under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (upto 31.12.2006) during 2006-07, is given in the Statement *(See* below). Rs. 10559.53 crore. that is 96% (approx.) of the BE, has been released to the States/UTs upto 28th February, 2007.

†Onginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.